

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0682

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SEDU, KE

SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY TO REOPEN JANUARY 6 AMIDST UNCERTAINTY

1. NAIROBI UNIVERSITY AND KENYATTA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, CLOSED IN MID-AUGUST FOLLOWING REPEATED STUDENT WALKOUTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS OVER SHORTAGE OF TEACHING STAFF AND LIVING CONDITIONS, ARE SCHEDULED TO REOPEN JANUARY 6. ALL STUDENTS SEEKING READMISSION WERE REQUIRED TO REAPPLY BY DECEMBER 16 AND TO AGREE IN WRITING TO ABIDE BY STRICT NEW SET OF REGULATIONS. REGULATIONS MAKE ATTENDANCE AT CLASS COMPULSORY AND FORBID STUDENTS FROM ORGANIZING DEMONSTRATIONS WITHOUT PERMISSION.

2. NAMES OF SEVEN STUDENT LEADERS WHO WERE PROMINENT IN AUGUST TROUBLES DID NOT APPEAR ON COMPREHENSIVE NEWSPAPER LIST OF READMITTED STUDENTS. ASSISTANT REGISTRAR TOLD PRESS THESE SEVEN WERE AMONG NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO DID NOT REAPPLY, A CLAIM VIGOROUSLY DENIED BY JUSTIS OGEKA, CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS. ACCORDING TO OGEKA, UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR SOLOMON KARANJA (WHO IS RESIGNING AFTER 11 YEARS) ASSURED STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES AT NOVEMBER MEETING THAT NO STUDENTS WOULD BE DENIED RE-ENTRY.

3. NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS SAID TO BE SEEKING GOVERNMENT PERMISSION TO HOLD MASS MEETING JANUARY 7. SINCE ONE OBVIOUS
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PURPOSE OF PROPOSED MEETING WOULD BE TO PROTEST ALLEGED EX-

PULSIONS, GOK PERMISSION UNLIKELY. MILITANT STUDENTS AND SOME FACULTY PREDICTING ADDITIONAL WALKOUTS, WHICH MAY SPREAD TO KENYA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND SEVERAL TEACHER'S COLLEGES, WHEN UNIVERSITY REOPENS.

4. COMMENT: A NUMBER OF STUDENT AND FACULTY SOURCES ARE PRESENTLY PESSIMISTIC ON HOW LONG UNIVERSITY WILL REMAIN OPEN IN ABSENCE MEANINGFUL REDRESS OF STUDENT GRIEVANCES AND CONTINUANCE IN OFFICE OF UNPOPULAR ADMINISTRATION. ON OTHER HAND, MAJORITY OF STUDENTS, AWARE THAT UNIVERSITY WILL PERMIT THEM TO MAKE UP LOST FOUR MONTHS OVER NEXT YEAR AND A HALF, MAY OPT OUT OF INVOLVEMENT IN ANY RENEWED EFFORT TO CONFRONT ESTABLISHMENT. MARSHALL

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